

York Museums Trust

Summer Volunteering 2017

If you wish to volunteer over the summer (July-September) we may be able to offer you a visitor facing role at either the Yorkshire Museum, York Castle Museum or York Art Gallery.

Below is some information about the roles available:



at the Yorkshire

You will learn 1 activity at the start of the holiday period and then run this on gallery, volunteering alongside other volunteers. Each activity typically works with a small collection of objects from our archaeology, natural history or natural science collection and your role would be to demonstrate and interpret these objects, chatting to visitors about them and supervising how they handle them.

There are some essential criteria that you would have to meet: we run mandatory object handling and customer care training for our visitor facing volunteers and our last scheduled session before the summer holidays is **Tuesday 18th of July from 10am till 12pm**. You would need to be available to attend this date. In addition, we will be training for the individual activity week commencing **24th July** and again you would need to be available for these (individual dates are yet to be confirmed).



at the Castle

You would learn 1 activity at the start of the holiday period, and would then run these on gallery, volunteering alongside other volunteers. Each activity typically works with a small collection of objects from our social or military history collection and your role would be to demonstrate and interpret these objects, chatting to visitors about them and supervising how they handle them.

There are some essential criteria that you would have to meet: we run mandatory object handling and customer care training for our visitor facing volunteers and our last scheduled sessions before the summer holidays are on **Wednesday 12th of July from 10am till 12pm**. You would need to be available to attend this date. In addition, we will be training for the individual activities week commencing **17th July** and again you would need to be available for these (individual dates are yet to be confirmed).



at York Art Gallery

You would learn 1 activity at the start of the holiday period and would then run this at the Art Gallery. We have four activities you can choose from our ceramic collection in the Centre of Ceramic Art. The volunteer role is to chat to visitors about the objects, interpreting them and supervising how they are handled.

There are some essential criteria that you would have to meet: we run mandatory object handling and customer care training for our visitor facing volunteers and our last scheduled sessions before the summer holidays are on **Friday 7th July at 10.30am till 12pm**. You would need to be available to attend on this date. In addition, we will be training for the individual activities in week commencing **10th July** and again you would need to be available for these (individual dates are yet to be confirmed).



Costume on Kirkgate

You will learn 1 activity at the start of the holiday period and would then run this in Kirkgate at the Castle Museum. We have six activities that you can choose from on Kirkgate including Saville's Chemist or the Sweet Shop. This is a costumed interpretation role inside a shop setting in the Victorian period. This is not an acting role, it is done in the third person, and there will be a retail offer in some spaces so you must be prepared to handle cash.

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Anthony Shaw space

This is a stewarding and interpretive role based in the Anthony Shaw Space, in the Centre of Ceramic Art at York Art Gallery. Anthony has curated the space, which is designed to look like a domestic setting, displaying some of his most favourite pieces from his collection at home. Volunteers encourage visitors into the space making it feel like a welcoming home environment, and answer questions on the collection and Anthony as a collector. It is also important for the volunteers to keep the space invigilated as objects are out on open display.

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Leisure Land Golf Steward in York Art Gallery's Artists Garden

This summer we have an exciting interactive installation in the Artist's Garden at York Art Gallery. Doug Fishbone's Leisure Land Golf is a unique exhibition that allows visitors to play a round of crazy golf while engaging with contemporary art. As a volunteer steward you will be giving people information about the artists and their pieces while facilitating the activity.

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Raindale Mill

This is a stewarding and interpretive role to open up and run our historic water mill to the public. We no longer grind corn in the mill, but are able to operate the mechanism, so that the water wheel turns. The volunteer role involves meeting and greeting the visitors, showing them around and explaining how the mill worked, what its origins are and how it came to be at the Castle Museum.

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York Observatory

This is a stewarding and interpretive role to open up and run the observatory to the public. You will be trained on the building and telescopes significance so you can show the visitor how the telescope would have been used. The aim of the project is to increase awareness of astronomy in York and the role York has played in the history of that science. It offers a unique experience for willing volunteers to be in a stunning Victorian observatory and interact with members of the public.

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training for the individual activity week commencing **24th July** and again you would need to be available for these (individual dates are yet to be confirmed).

Important information

Please note that for all projects, we would require a minimum commitment of **four sessions per week** (10am-1pm or 1pm- 4pm) from the period **24th July – 11th September**, you can do full days (with a lunch break), half days, or a mixture of both. The activities run over 7 days so there is lots of flexibility on when you can come in. If you were interested in taking up this role, we would conduct an informal meeting with you prior to making you an offer. This will be in the week commencing the **26th of June**. The purpose of this would be to chat with you a little more about the role and how this fits with what you are looking to achieve.

If successful we will provide you with a photographic ID on your first session. Your photo will be taken on your customer care training session. If volunteering at York Castle Museum, we will ask for a £3 deposit for an electronic entrance card to access the site. This deposit will be returned to you when you hand your card back when you finish volunteering.

If you think that this role would be a nice way for you to spend your summer, and if you consider that you will be able to meet all the criteria for training and time commitment, please go to our website and complete the application form by **Friday 30th June** at the latest.

You can follow this link to our application form.

<https://app.betterimpact.com/Application/?OrganizationGuid=448d7de7-1bc9-498c-a8a4-25d9145333a8&ApplicationFormNumber=1>